



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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Office of Food Protection and Consumer Health Services

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MARYLAND INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM (MIM)

MIM #:	08-06
TO:	Environmental Health Directors/ Food Program Supervisors/ Sanitarians
FROM:	Jody Menikheim, Chief, Division of Facility and Process Review
DATE:	June 12, 2008
SUBJECT:	Employee Personal Hygiene - Jewelry

This memorandum serves as a clarification of the jewelry requirement stated in COMAR 10.15.03.14H. Regulation .14H (3), Personnel Health and Sanitation, states: "An employee who handles exposed food and food-contact surfaces, except for a plain smooth ring such as a wedding band, does not wear jewelry." Upon consultation with the FDA, it has been determined that this requirement pertains only to hand and lower arm jewelry for employees that handle exposed food and food contact equipment. This is to ensure adequate cleaning of hands and to avoid the buildup of bacteria around the jewelry. This requirement does not apply to wait staff or bartenders, whose duties do not include major food preparation. However, all employees touching ready-to-eat food must wear disposable gloves or utilize suitable utensils to prevent direct hand contact.

This memorandum will be placed on the "Retail Facilities" page of the Office of Food Protection Website at: <http://www.cha.state.md.us/ofpchs/fc/retail.html> . Any questions regarding this document should be directed to the Division of Facility and Process Review at 410-767-8400.

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